

## Strategic & Action Plan 2020 - Tarrangower Cactus Control Group Inc.

<b>Goal</b>	To effect and support the eradication of Wheel Cactus ( <i>Opuntia robusta</i> ) on private and public lands.
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<b>Over-all Objectives</b>	<b>Short-term:</b> to treat 50% of the current major infestations of Wheel Cactus, and prevent any new infestations, in the Maldon, Baringhup and Nuggetty areas.
	<b>Long-term:</b> to eradicate all major Wheel Cactus infestations from the Maldon, Baringhup and Nuggetty areas.

<b>Area of Concern</b>	Area is bounded by Cairn Curran Reservoir to the west, Bradford Road to the north, Maldon-Lockwood Road and Maldon-Newstead Road to the east, and Trudgeons Road to the south.
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<b>Strategies</b>	Increase the number of landowners actively controlling Wheel Cactus infestations on their private properties.
	Encourage volunteers to actively control Wheel Cactus on public and crown lands in our area of concern.
	Provide 6 community field days per year to educate, demonstrate techniques, and motivate landowners and volunteers.
	Promote and financially sustain our group.
	Assess the effectiveness of control methods and develop improved integrated management strategies.
	Encourage the participation of other groups, such as local environment and community groups and government work crews.
	Develop and maintain partnerships with Parks Victoria, Mt. Alexander Shire, DEWLP, DEDJTR, NCCMA and Victorian Weed Society.

### Actions

Community Awareness & Support	Education and Information	Group Promotion & Sustainability	Research and Development	Partnerships and Support
1. Conduct 6 field days each year (monthly May to Oct) to raise awareness & demonstrate effective control techniques to our community members. 2. Maintain injecting & digging equipment & supply of herbicides & biocontrol.	1. Produce and distribute brochures to inform and educate landowners & community members. 2. Update technical advice in brochures on best practise to destroy & dispose of wheel cactus plants. 3. Maintain an up-to-date and informative website.	1. Prepare calendar of available grants and maintain a group template. 2. Maintain annual budget. 3. Seek funding from various funding bodies. 4. Participate in local fundraising events. 5. Promote group at local community events.	1. Monitor the progress in control strategies on the six properties involved in the 2019 'Multi-pronged Management' project. 2. Distribute cochineal at Field Days & new locations. 3. Maintain the permanent Cochineal insect Nursery. 4. Share the project results.	1. Seek Wheel Cactus control support from other local Landcare groups. 2. Maintain partnership with Parks Victoria to control infestations in local parks. 3. Seek and host available government work crews. 4. Maintain Partnership Agreement with MASC.

<p>3. Provide local landowners with free equipment loans.</p> <p>4. Provide individual control advice and support as requested to property owners in our area.</p> <p>5. Encourage and appreciate our volunteers.</p> <p>6. Provide free disposal of wheel cactus plants at the Maldon Transfer Station.</p>	<p>4. Reply to email enquiries.</p> <p>5. Warn nearby communities of the threat of wheel cactus using local media.</p> <p>6. Erect Wheel Cactus warning signs on local property fences.</p>	<p>6. Promote group with sale of 'cactus warrior' t-shirts, pens &amp; coffee mugs.</p> <p>7. Promote group using regular media releases.</p>	<p>5. Attend appropriate workshops &amp; conferences to share knowledge and experiences with other groups.</p> <p>6. Collate map of site locations of treated wheel cactus infestations.</p> <p>7. Provide map of Wheel Cactus infestations to the MASC Planning Department.</p>	<p>5. Collaborate with MASC to increase compliance of local By-laws by landowners.</p> <p>6. Collaborate with State Government to increase compliance of 'Catchment and Land Protection' Act.</p> <p>7. Encourage citizen science activities in local community.</p>
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## Measures

<p>1. Record property location &amp; number of volunteer participants at field days &amp; before- after photographs at field day sites.</p> <p>2. Maintain record of equipment &amp; herbicide purchases.</p> <p>3. Maintain a register of equipment loans.</p> <p>4. Record contact with landowners who request information or assistance.</p> <p>5. Provide rewards and end of year celebration with volunteers in November.</p> <p>6. Maintain record of disposal volumes from Maldon Transfer Station records.</p>	<p>1. Record number of brochures distributed via field days, mail-outs and community events.</p> <p>2. Maintain file of updated technical brochures.</p> <p>3. Regularly post new information and check number of views and subscribers on website.</p> <p>4. Maintain record of email enquiries and responses.</p> <p>5. Publication of press releases in local newspapers and newsletters, and radio and T.V. interviews.</p> <p>6. Distribute more farm fence warning signs to local property owners.</p>	<p>1. Maintain and update grant calendar and group template.</p> <p>2. Present monthly/annual financial reports at all committee meetings.</p> <p>3. Submit regular grant applications for funding.</p> <p>4. Record participation in fundraising events (such as the Maldon Market).</p> <p>5. Record participation in local community events (e.g. Maldon Easter Parade).</p> <p>6. Record sales of t-shirts, pens &amp; coffee mugs.</p> <p>7. Record monthly publication of articles in local newspapers and newsletters.</p>	<p>1. Review works and photograph cactus infestations on properties involved in the project.</p> <p>2. Maintain web map of Cochineal release sites and record sites on the ALA 'Biocontrol Hub' App.</p> <p>3. Keep photograph records of cochineal nursery.</p> <p>4. Share project report via website, media &amp; meetings.</p> <p>5. Document conference &amp; workshop attendances &amp; presentations given.</p> <p>6. Maintain NCCMA web-based map of treated sites.</p> <p>7. Send web-based map to MASC Planning Department.</p>	<p>1. Provide individual field day demonstrations with local Landcare groups.</p> <p>2. Hold some field days in collaboration with Parks Victoria in our local parks.</p> <p>3. Document activities by work crews.</p> <p>4. Maintain before/after photos of field days and monitor local roadsides.</p> <p>5. Record correspondence with MASC personnel.</p> <p>6. Record correspondence with DEDJTR personnel and other environment groups.</p> <p>7. Complete citizen surveys and organise shared events with other local groups.</p>
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